



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

Michael F. Easley
Governor

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**AMERICORPS PROJECT ACCESS RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT TO
EDUCATE HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITY ON PUBLIC SAFETY
ISSUES**

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley announced today that the AmeriCorps Cross Cultural Education Service Systems (ACCESS) project has received a \$50,000 grant to educate the Hispanic/Latino community of North Carolina on public safety issues.

"Our Hispanic and Latino communities have language and cultural barriers that can prevent them from understanding safety hazards in the home and workplace," Easley said. "With this grant, ACCESS members will be able to develop the tools they need to reach out and make sure our Spanish-speaking residents are informed about critical public safety awareness matters."

AmeriCorps ACCESS received the grant from the Duke Power Foundation to produce public awareness messages in Spanish. Issues that will be addressed include the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and how to safely work around electricity. Television and radio public service announcements as well as telenovellas, which are similar to mini soap operas, will be produced. ACCESS will air the announcements on existing media outlets which broadcast in Spanish across the state.

"Our goal is to ensure that our limited English speaking residents have the information they need to lead a healthy life and be properly prepared in an emergency situation," said Dr. Raleigh Bailey, the director of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Center for New North Carolinians, which houses the AmeriCorps program. "Many Hispanic/Latino residents are not aware of these dangers because they were not an issue in their home country."

AmeriCorps members serving with the ACCESS project also provide interpretation and translation services, English language instruction, citizenship training, tutoring, domestic violence outreach, refugee resettlement and public health education to immigrants and refugees.